



System Approach for Safety Oversight *Frequently Asked Questions*

What is SASO?

The System Approach for Safety Oversight (SASO) Program will transform the Flight Standards Service (AFS) and the aviation industry to a national standard of system safety by implementing a comprehensive set of world class system safety practices.

Who manages SASO?

SASO is managed by the SASO Program Office (AFS-30) within the FAA's Flight Standards Service (AFS).

Why is SASO being implemented?

As we enter the 21st century, the FAA Flight Standards Service (AFS), finds itself facing the dual challenges of increasing air traffic and budget pressure. Current FAA forecasts predict a 57% increase in total scheduled US airline passenger traffic over the period of 2005-2016.

In order to reduce accidents while effectively managing resources, AFS must change the way it does business to achieve its goals.

What is system safety and what are some of its benefits?

System safety is the application of special technical and managerial skills to the systematic, forward-looking identification and control of hazards for the aviation industry.

System safety is being incorporated into AFS's core business processes to provide a more effective and efficient safety management approach that will further improve FAA's safety oversight capabilities. In addition, system safety provides a more cost effective means for achieving the FAA and AFS missions.

How will SASO affect AFS's current business processes?

SASO will analyze, assess, and when necessary reengineer current AFS business processes in order to incorporate state of the art system safety practices. Beyond regular inspection and surveillance techniques, system safety practices emphasize the pro-active identification and evaluation of aviation risk factors, and will enable AFS to efficiently focus its oversight efforts on the highest risk areas. In addition, AFS's new processes will support a more collaborative relationship with the aviation certificate holders and empower them with more responsibility for safety management within their organization.

How will SASO affect AFS's current tools and infrastructure?

Over the course of the multi-year SASO program, the current suite of AFS information systems and decision support tools will be redesigned and integrated to better support the information requirements of new system safety based business processes. These changes will make current safety oversight tools and infrastructure more efficient, effective, and user-friendly.

How will SASO affect existing safety oversight programs such as ATOS, CSET, FSAS, SPAS, and OASIS?

One objective for SASO is to develop an environment where safety oversight programs operate collaboratively. All existing AFS programs will be analyzed and potentially modified or integrated to accomplish this objective.

Find out more information at:

http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/saso/

SASO Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved with SASO?

The SASO Program Office will always answer questions and accept comments. In addition, FAA employees will be asked to participate on various program teams to provide subject matter expertise.

One of these teams, the SASO Outreach Team will be conducting field visits starting in FY06. SASO's Outreach Team will serve as the program's communication channel by disseminating information about SASO and collecting input and feedback from employees in the field.

If you are interested in more information on the Outreach Team, please contact the SASO Program Office at 9-AWA-AFS-30-SASO@FAA.GOV or find contact information at the bottom of the page.

How will SASO affect the aviation industry?

SASO will introduce a more collaborative approach to managing safety that will strengthen the relationship between certificate holders and the FAA. This will include moving to an environment of information sharing between industry and the FAA to reduce or eliminate safety hazards. SASO is also designed to foster increased certificate holder responsibility for safety management.

How will SASO impact AFS employees?

SASO will help AFS employees attain organizational objectives and goals by more effectively focusing their oversight efforts on high-risk areas. SASO will also align AFS business processes, tools, and infrastructure to help employees more easily accomplish their responsibilities. SASO will incorporate a comprehensive change management program that will prepare employees for forthcoming changes, and assist them in transitioning to a new way of doing business. The change management effort will expand dialogue with the field, involve the work force in program initiatives, provide training, and facilitate the implementation of new processes.

Does SASO support the FAA Flight Plan?

SASO directly supports the FAA Flight Plan by contributing to the:

- Reduction of the air carrier fatal accident rate
- Reduction of the number of general aviation accidents
- Accrual of significant cost savings for both the FAA and aviation industry
- Improvement of AFS job quality, and the provision of more training and development opportunities for aviation safety personnel

What is the timeline for implementing SASO?

SASO is a multi-year program that will be implemented using a phased approach. The three primary phases and the projected dates for each are as follows:

Phase I: Planning and Engineering, 2004 through early 2009

Phase II: Implementation, 2009 through 2017

Phase III: In-Service Management, 2017 and beyond

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